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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/656,993	09/05/2003	Keith A. Bello	TUC920030089US1	9348
49080	7590	09/22/2008		
DALE F. REGELMAN QUARLES & BRADY, LLP ONE SOUTH CHURCH AVENUE, STE. 1700 TUCSON, AZ 85701-1621			EXAMINER WHIPPLE, BRIAN P	
			ART UNIT 2152	PAPER NUMBER
			NOTIFICATION DATE 09/22/2008	DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/656,993

Applicant(s)

BELLO ET AL.

Examiner

Brian P. Whipple

Art Unit

2152

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 August 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 6-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 6-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-4 and 6-21 are pending in this application and presented for examination.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 8/6/08 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-4 and 6-21 have been considered but are moot in view of being directed to amended subject matter. The amended subject matter is properly addressed in the grounds of rejection.

Claim Objections

4. Claims 1, 9, 14, and 19 are objected to because of the following informalities: the acronyms VTC and VTS are used without initially using their unabbreviated form in the

claims. The claims are made difficult to understand by the lack of explanation of the terms.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lisiecki et al. (Lisiecki), U.S. Publication No. 2002/0147774 A1, in view of Ravi et al. (Ravi), U.S. Patent No. 6,292,834 B1, further in view of Pittelkow et al. (Pittelkow), U.S. Patent No. 7,043,663 B1, and further in view of what was well known in the art.

7. As to claim 1, Lisiecki discloses a method to write information to two servers (Fig. 2; Abstract, ln. 1-7), comprising the steps of:

writing a host computer file to said second device disposed in said first server (Fig. 3; [0046], ln. 5-18);

queuing a copy job in a Copy Queue, wherein said copy job comprises copying said host computer file to said second server (Fig. 2; [0046], ln. 14-20).

Lisiecki is silent on said devices being virtual host devices, said Copy Queue being a VTC Copy Queue, and said server being a virtual tape server;

supplying a data storage and retrieval system comprising a host computer, a first virtual controller, a second virtual controller, a first virtual server comprising a first adjustable aggregate bandwidth, and a second virtual server, wherein said first virtual controller comprises a first virtual host device and a first virtual copy device, and wherein said second virtual controller comprises a second virtual host device and a second virtual copy device, and wherein said first virtual server comprises a third virtual host device and a third virtual copy device, and wherein said second virtual server comprises a fourth virtual host device and a fourth virtual copy device, wherein said host computer communicates with said first virtual server using a host / server bandwidth, wherein said host computer communicates with said second virtual server via said second virtual host device and said fourth virtual host device, and wherein said first virtual server communicates with said second virtual server using a server / server bandwidth;

determining an age of said queued copy job;

setting an age threshold;

determining if the age of said queued copy job is greater than said age threshold;

operative if the age of said queued copy job is greater than said age threshold,
decreasing said host / server bandwidth thereby increasing said server / server bandwidth.

Ravi discloses a server comprising a host / server bandwidth (Abstract, ln. 1-13);

determining an age of said queued copy job (Fig. 5A, item 513; Abstract, ln. 8-13; the
playtime is the age of the job being copied from the server to the client);

setting an age threshold (Abstract, ln. 8-13);

determining if the age of said queued copy job is greater than said age threshold
(Abstract, ln. 8-13);

operative if the age of said queued copy job is greater than said age threshold,
decreasing said host / server bandwidth thereby increasing said server / server bandwidth
(Fig. 3; Abstract, ln. 1-13). Applicant's own remarks show that reducing bandwidth between
the client and the server of Ravi "necessarily makes additional bandwidth available"
(Applicant's specification, page 7, lines 1-3) between the servers shown in Fig. 3.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the
invention to modify the teachings of Lisiecki by determining the age of a queued job, setting
an age threshold, and decreasing bandwidth as taught by Ravi in order to avoid buffer
overrun (Ravi: Abstract, ln. 24-27).

Lisiecki and Ravi are silent on said devices being virtual host devices, said Copy
Queue being a VTC Copy Queue, and said server being a virtual tape server;

supplying a data storage and retrieval system comprising a host computer, a first virtual controller, a second virtual controller, a first virtual server, and a second virtual server, wherein said first virtual controller comprises a first virtual host device and a first virtual copy device, and wherein said second virtual controller comprises a second virtual host device and a second virtual copy device, and wherein said first virtual server comprises a third virtual host device and a third virtual copy device, and wherein said second virtual server comprises a fourth virtual host device and a fourth virtual copy device, wherein said host computer communicates with said first virtual server using a host / server bandwidth, wherein said host computer communicates with said second virtual server via said second virtual host device and said fourth virtual host device, and wherein said first virtual server communicates with said second virtual server using a server / server bandwidth.

However, Pittelkow discloses supplying a data storage and retrieval system comprising a host computer, a first virtual controller, a second virtual controller, a first virtual server comprising a first adjustable aggregate bandwidth, and a second virtual server, wherein said first virtual controller comprises a first virtual host device and a first virtual copy device, and wherein said second virtual controller comprises a second virtual host device and a second virtual copy device, and wherein said first virtual server comprises a third virtual host device and a third virtual copy device, and wherein said second virtual server comprises a fourth virtual host device and a fourth virtual copy device, wherein said

host computer communicates with said first virtual server using a host / server bandwidth, wherein said host computer communicates with said second virtual server via said second virtual host device and said fourth virtual host device, and wherein said first virtual server communicates with said second virtual server using a server / server bandwidth (Abstract; Fig. 1; Fig. 5).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Lisiecki and Ravi by enabling storage network communications as claimed above and as taught by Pittelkow in order to backup data redundantly in a network.

Official notice (see MPEP 2144.03) is taken that virtual tape storage is well known in the art and that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Lisiecki, Ravi, and Pittelkow by using virtual tape storage servers and host devices with copy queues as is known in the art in order to backup data in a network.

8. As to claim 2, Lisiecki, Ravi, Pittelkow, and what was well known in the art disclose the invention substantially as in parent claim 1, including operative if the age of said queued copy job is not greater than said age threshold, restoring said host / server bandwidth to a pre-determined nominal value (Abstract, ln. 13-18).

9. As to claim 3, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1 above. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply the teachings of Lisiecki, Ravi, Pittelkow, and what was well known in the art to a second system as a designing characteristic of the networking industry is applying known techniques to a plurality of systems. The benefits of Lisiecki's, Ravi's, and Pittelkow's teachings and what was well known in the art, as discussed for claim 1 above, are the same for a second system.

10. As to claim 4, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claims 2-3 above.

11. As to claims 5-6, 9, 11-14, and 16-20, the claims are rejected for the same reasons as claim 1 above.

12. As to claim 7, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claims 1 and 3 above.

13. As to claims 8 and 21, the claims are rejected for the same reasons as claims 1-3 above.

14. As to claims 10 and 15, the claims are rejected for the same reasons as claim 2 above.

Conclusion

15. All claims are drawn to the same invention claimed in the application prior to the entry of the submission under 37 CFR 1.114 and could have been finally rejected on the grounds and art of record in the next Office action if they had been entered in the application prior to entry under 37 CFR 1.114. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL** even though it is a first action after the filing of a request for continued examination and the submission under 37 CFR 1.114. See MPEP § 706.07(b). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

16. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian P. Whipple whose telephone number is (571)270-1244. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (9:30 AM to 6:00 PM EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bunjob Jaroenchonwanit can be reached on (571) 272-3913. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Brian P. Whipple
/B. P. W./
Examiner, Art Unit 2152

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9/12/08

/Kenny S Lin/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2152